AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:

a plurality of image carriers arranged in a sheet transporting direction, the plurality of image carriers comprising an image carrier of black and an image carrier of a color other than black; and

a transfer unit, which has a plurality of transfer members corresponding to the respective image carriers, for transferring images carried on the respective image carriers, and a belt, which transports a sheet and is arranged to be suspended from two ~~the~~ transfer members among the plurality of transfer members,

wherein the plurality of transfer members comprise a transfer member of black and a transfer member of the color other than black,

wherein the transfer unit ~~has~~ comprises a rotary fulcrum positioned ~~outside~~ at a place where the belt is not located ~~and in the vicinity of an extension of the axis of a transfer member located on one end portion in the sheet transporting direction so as to be approximately parallel to the axis~~, and whole transfer unit can be rotated ~~on~~ around the rotary fulcrum in directions of moving to and from the image carriers, and

wherein a distance between any two ~~of the~~ transfer members among all the plurality of transfer members comprised by the transfer unit stays constant during a rotation of the transfer unit.

2. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the transfer members are movable in directions of moving to and from the image carriers.

3. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the transfer unit includes a supporter for supporting the transfer members, and the supporter has the rotary fulcrum.

4. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the transfer unit is rotatable on the rotary fulcrum so that a distance between a first transfer member and an image carrier corresponding to the first transfer member comes to between 2.5 mm and 4 mm when the transfer unit is separated from the image carriers, wherein the first transfer member is adjacent to a second transfer member, the second transfer member being closer to the rotary fulcrum than the first transfer member.

5. (Currently amended) A transfer unit comprising:

a plurality of juxtaposed transfer members;

a supporter for supporting the plurality of transfer members so as to be rotatable and movable in a radial direction; and

a belt, which transports a sheet and is arranged to be suspended from ~~the~~ two transfer ~~member~~members among the plurality of transfer members,

wherein the plurality of transfer members comprise a transfer member of black and a transfer member of the color other than black,

wherein the supporter ~~has~~ comprises a rotary fulcrum positioned ~~outside~~ at a place where the belt is not located~~and in the vicinity of an extension of the axis of a transfer member located at one end portion in a direction in which the transfer members are juxtaposed, so as to be approximately parallel to the axis~~, and

wherein a distance between any two of the transfer members among all of the plurality of transfer members comprised by the transfer unit stays constant during a rotation of the transfer unit.

6. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus of claim 1, wherein the rotary fulcrum is provided separately from any shaft and transfer members.

7. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus of claim 3, wherein the rotary fulcrum is fixed to the supporter.

8. (Previously presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the transfer unit is rotatable between 2° and 3° on the rotary fulcrum.

9. (Previously presented) The image forming apparatus of claim 1, wherein the belt path remains the same as the transfer unit is rotated on the rotary fulcrum in directions moving to and from the image carriers.